UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/49/L.34/Rev.1
15 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 37 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Djibouti and Morocco: revised draft resolution

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/157 of 18 December 1992 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 1/ adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Deeply distressed by the large number of afflicted persons and the significant damage and devastation to property and infrastructure in Djibouti caused by the torrential rains and unprecedented flooding of November 1994,

Noting with concern the death, injury and disappearance of scores of people and the mounting needs of thousands of displaced persons, as well as the destruction of dwellings, particularly in poorer districts, and the disintegration of important parts of the national infrastructure, in particular

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1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

the road and rail networks, water supply, clinics and hospitals, educational institutions and other public services,

Recognizing the extensive damage to the limited agricultural resources of Djibouti, including the destruction of its livestock,

Aware of the efforts of the Government and people of Djibouti to save human lives and to alleviate the suffering of the 100,000 victims of the disaster,

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti, which is included in the list of least developed countries, are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those which are now occurring and which occurred in 1989, and noting also that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires the deployment of substantial resources, exceeding the real capacity of the country,

Noting with concern that the situation in Djibouti has been adversely affected by the evolving critical situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting the presence of over 100,000 refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has, on the one hand, placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of the country and, on the other, raised serious security concerns,

Noting the critical economic situation of Djibouti resulting in part from the number of priority development projects that have been suspended in view of the new critical regional and international situation, and in part from the effects of the regional conflicts, notably in Somalia, which have disrupted services, transport and trade and which are draining the State of most of its revenues,

Noting also the need for the efficient mobilization of local resources to complement external assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

Recalling with gratitude the support provided to emergency relief operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with gratitude the support provided by the French forces stationed in Djibouti, whose exemplary actions and interventions in cooperation with government forces helped to save several thousand human lives during the floods,

1. Declares its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti in the face of the devastating consequences of the torrential rains and floods and the new economic realities of Djibouti, resulting in particular from the new critical situation in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia;

2/ A/49/396.

2. Calls upon all States to contribute generously to the emergency relief operations and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts now under way;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

4. Notes with satisfaction the signing of the agreement on 14 November 1994 between the Government of Djibouti and the United Nations Development Programme to hold a round-table meeting at Geneva in March 1995 for the benefit of the country;

5. Calls upon all States, all regional and interregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other intergovernmental agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank, to provide Djibouti with appropriate assistance, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to enable it to cope with its special economic difficulties;

6. Considers that implementation of the demobilization programme and of the national rehabilitation plan and reinforcement of democratic institutions require generous assistance in the form of financial and material support;

7. Emphasizes the importance of efficient use of external technical and financial assistance and of the mobilization of local resources for carrying out activities aimed at consolidating democracy and the welfare of the population, and encourages efforts in this regard;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with economic assistance to that country, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.